

# // County Cavan Town and Village Revitalisation Plans

## REVITALISATION PLANS

Prepared for County Cavan  
26<sup>th</sup> September 2018 - Issue 02  
FINAL

# ARVA



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# PROJECT OVERVIEW



*Cavan County Council has taken the lead in developing Town and Village Revitalisation Plans for 20 Towns and Villages across the County.*

These plans have been developed in recognition of the importance of supporting and developing the physical and social fabric of these towns. The objective is to enhance our Towns and Villages as more attractive places to live and to work.

The plans are ambitious and will act as blueprints for the development and enhancement of our Towns and Villages over the next ten to fifteen years.

An integral part of the success of these plans will be the role that communities within the towns and villages take in leading out in their implementation in conjunction with Cavan County Council and other relevant bodies. Identification of a broad range of projects within the plans will enable communities to easily prioritise and develop project applications.

## 1. The Context for County Cavan Towns and Villages

Towns and villages play a key role in terms of serving the economic, social, cultural and community needs of the people and their hinterland. However, many towns and villages throughout Ireland are experiencing huge changes in terms of their commercial, aesthetic and cultural landscape. Provincial towns and especially provincial villages are under serious threat from the polarising effect of the larger city economies.

County Cavan is no exception to these changes. But while it shares the generic planning challenges that most provincial towns face such as out-of-town retail and residential development leading to dereliction of established town centres, Cavan County has also some very specific characteristics and needs. In particular South East Cavan due its proximity to the Greater Dublin Area has seen significant rise in population resulting in significant commuter numbers in some of the towns. In contrast parts of West Cavan, nested within pristine landscapes but in remote locations are suffering from population decline. County Cavan also faces challenges on account of its proximity to the border with Northern Ireland.

Within this context, as both the towns and villages experience huge changes across County Cavan, there is a greater importance placed on developing places that will be resilient and sustainable in the years and decades to come. In this context, County Cavan Council aim to harness local community and entrepreneurial spirit, in order to develop Revitalisation Plans for the towns and villages of Cavan.

## 2. Project Purpose and Outcomes

In September 2017, Tyréns UK and GCAL were commissioned by County Cavan Council to undertake the Town and Villages Revitalisation Plans project. The project will complement studies already undertaken by County Cavan and local Councils aimed at securing the long-term future of Cavan's towns.

The project encompasses the revitalisation of the following 20 towns and villages:

- Cavan Town
- Virginia
- Bailieborough
- Ballyjamesduff
- Cootehill
- Kingscourt
- Belturbet
- Mullagh
- Ballyconnell
- Ballinagh
- Ballyhaise
- Shercock
- Killeshandra
- Arva
- Kilnaleck
- Swanlinbar
- Butlersbridge
- Blacklion
- Lough Gowra
- Dowra

The purpose of this study is to prepare plans showcasing how improvements can enhance the town as an attractive place in which to live, play, work, and visit. The Revitalisation Plans will seek to enhance and improve town and village functions both on a day to day basis, while also seeking to improve the long term socio economic, cultural and environmental benefits for residents, businesses, communities and visitors.

The outcomes of the Revitalisation Plans are three-fold - to deliver successful strategies across spatial development, economic development and community development. The project will seek to ensure that the design of these town and village plans recognises the diversity that exists in the County of Cavan and will tailor each plan for the site specifics of each settlement.

## 3. Project Structure

The project has been structured as follows:

### STAGE 1 - BASELINE

- Review of background material, reports, studies and strategies
- 'What makes Cavan - Cavan' engagement campaign
- County wide analysis
- Review of consultation findings

### STAGE 2 - REVITALISATION PLANS

- Individual Town and Village Revitalisation Plans
- Consultation workshops

## 4. Objectives and Role of this Report

This report is one of a sequence of twenty reports providing a final summary of the proposals and proposals prepared as part of the County Cavan Towns and Villages Revitalisation project. This report is the final revitalisation report for Arva (town 14 of 20).

The report sets out a series of proposals focusing on spatial, economic and community development, establishing recommendations for implementation timescales. The proposals are action-based and spatially focused and provide an urban design and public realm framework to inform local planning policy and future development and/or regeneration proposals, covering place-making, open space, transport, parking, heritage, iconic features and vistas, natural environment etc.

The report also compiles findings from the community engagement. The current design for Arva is the result of a collaborative process with County Cavan Council, citizens, stakeholders and neighbours groups.

## 5. Project Deliverables

The following reports have been or will be delivered as part of County Cavan Town and Village Revitalisation Plans project documentation:

### STAGE 1 - BASELINE

- Draft and Final Baseline Report - Site Analysis including SWOT analysis of each town and village and a County Wide analysis

### STAGE 2 - REVITALISATION PLANS

- Draft and Final Individual Town and Village Revitalisation Plans

## 6. Project Programme

The early stages of the project - October 2017 to January 2018 - were dedicated to understanding the towns and villages context. During this period community engagement events were carried out as part of the 'What makes Cavan - Cavan' campaign.

Following this stage, from January to early February 2018, a County Wide Strategy has been prepared establishing a shared vision for County Cavan's towns and villages, identifying unique selling points, focus areas and themes for the Revitalisation Plans.

From February to May 2018, Revitalisation Plans have been prepared for each individual town. These plans have been supported by a series of workshops with the community.

## 7. The Tyréns and Gaffney & Cullivan Architects Approach

The GCAL and Tyréns team bring global thinking and local knowledge to the project. GCAL as Lead Architect bring expertise, extensive experience and considerable local knowledge of County Cavan. The practice specialises in built heritage which leads to proactive conservation architecture and renewal. Tyréns is a European multidisciplinary masterplanning, urban development and sustainable infrastructure consulting firm specialised in community and regional planning. The combination of Tyréns international experience coupled with GCAL's wealth of more local knowledge brings a unique perspective to the project.

Disciplines inputting to the project include urban design and planning, landscape architecture, transport and community capacity building. Working with the council's team, Tyréns and GCAL approach centre around people, their needs, their habits and their vision to inform the design of urban space. Tyréns and GCAL's goal is to activate factors that allow towns and villages to flourish as attractive places in which to live, work and socialise in.

# INTRODUCTION



*This report details the proposals aimed at revitalising Arva. It is structured in the following way:*

## Section A - County Wide and Town Specific Proposals

Section A of the report identifies and describes proposals that are recommended to be implemented both county wide and on a town-by-town specific basis.

The section begins by presenting County Wide Proposals (referenced as CWP) that are recommended to be rolled out in each town across County Cavan. The report continues to outline a series of potential Town Specific Proposals (referenced as SP) that are recommended to be implemented in specific towns and villages across County Cavan only. The town specific proposals will be relevant to only some of the towns, and will be explored with further clarity in each report.

Each proposal is also associated with a suggested priority rating and predicted cost. This assumption is based on findings from consultations and feedback from members of the public. Both ratings are represented alongside each proposal with the following icons:

Priority rating:

- High
- Medium
- Low

Cost rating:

- € Standard Upgrade €0 - €25,000
- €€ Standard Plus Upgrade €25,000 - €100,000
- €€€ Premium Upgrade €100,000 +

## Section B - Belturbet Proposals

Following from this, the report outlines the proposals identified for Arva. Firstly, a map is used to illustrate the location of both the County Wide Proposals (CWP) and Arva Specific Proposals (ASP). On the map, each proposal encompasses a series of physical elements such as waste bins, lighting and seating etc. These items are identified by icons. These items are colour coded in reference to the key themes used in the Stage 1 framework to illustrate the challenges and opportunities affecting County Cavan's towns and villages. The themes are as follows;

1. Accessibility
2. Streetscape
3. Amenities and Services
4. Builtform
5. Initiatives and Events

Proposed themes and their associated icons are as follows;

### ACCESSIBILITY

- Signage
- Maps
- Information Panel
- Bus Shelter
- Crossing Point
- Footpath
- Cycle Path
- Traffic Calming
- Car Parking
- Pedestrianisation

### STREETSCAPE

- Planters
- Trees
- Tree surrounds
- Public Art
- Fountains
- Approach to town

### AMENITIES

- Seating
- Outdoor Gym
- Playground
- River Amenity Space

### BUILTFORM

- Street Façade / Building
- Road Surface
- Pavement Surface
- Kerb Finish
- Flexible Pavilion

### SERVICES

- Waste Bin
- Drinking Fountain
- Charging & Wifi Station
- Lighting

Following the summary map, each proposal for Arva is detailed with supporting text, existing and proposed imagery or graphics.

## Section C - Summary

In Section B, a table summarises all the proposals for Cavan and presents estimated costs and phasing.

## Section D - Consultation Findings

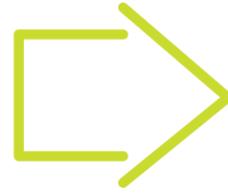
A first draft of the proposals presented in this report has been subject to a public consultation which led to the revised and final suggestions of this final report. A summary of the process and findings of the public consultation can be found in Section D.





**SECTION A - COUNTY WIDE AND TOWN SPECIFIC PROPOSALS**

# COUNTY WIDE PROPOSALS



*This section outlines recommended proposals to roll out in all 20 towns and villages across County Cavan. Proposals have been categorised into 'Standard', 'Standard Plus' and 'Premium' upgrades.*

Many of the proposals suggested within these reports are recommended to be implemented in all of the 20 towns and villages involved in this study. It is important to consider these County Wide proposals at the scale of the county in order to create an integrated and seamless strategy, whereby items such as street furniture and wayfinding are uniform across multiple locations. Not only is this a cost and implementation benefit, but it will also strengthen the visual identity of Cavan as a County, to residents and visitors alike.

Proposals have been categorised as 'Standard', 'Standard Plus' and 'Premium' upgrades based on cost, together with an indicative priority rating for their implementation.

County Wide (CWP) 'Standard Upgrades' have been identified as:

- CWP1 Public Seating
- CWP2 Waste and Recycle Bins
- CWP3 Planting
- CWP4 Information Signs with Wifi/Charging Point
- CWP5 Paving

County Wide (CWP) 'Standard Plus Upgrades' have been identified as:

- CWP6 Approach Signage
- CWP7 Murals and Public Art
- CWP8 Electric Vehicle Charging Point
- CWP9 Walking Routes

County Wide (CWP) 'Premium Upgrades' have been identified as:

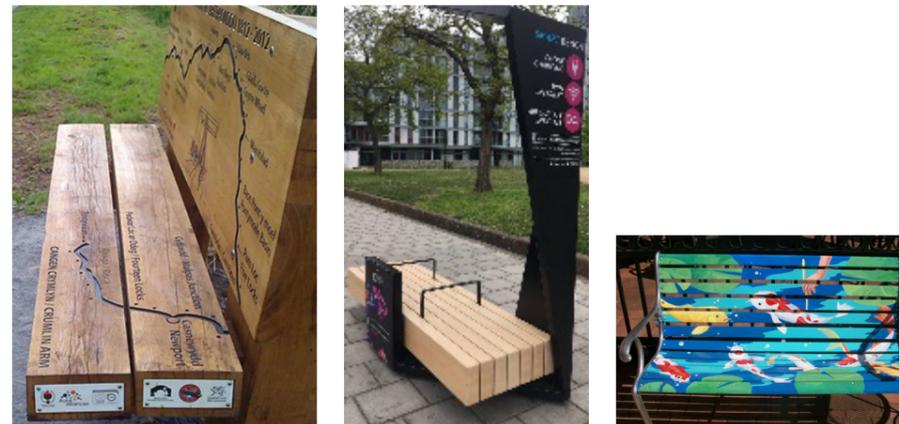
- CWP10 Façade Painting

## Standard Upgrades €

### CWP1 Public Seating

The first County Wide proposal is to provide upgraded and additional public seating throughout the towns. The design could incorporate the town's local history or natural assets by integrating the seat with an art installation, or simply repainting any existing public seating with vibrant imagery. The benches should be of a natural aesthetic (e.g. wood) and of a relatively traditional appearance in order to fit the local character of the area.

Seating could include benches and chairs that would allow people to rest and enjoy the public spaces. The seating should ideally be sourced from a local (County Cavan) carpenter(s) or furniture manufacturer(s) and therefore hopefully made from locally (and/or nationally) sourced materials. This will give the dual benefit for generating local employment/boosting the local economy and having a lower carbon footprint than importing from overseas. As a longer term option, introduce smart seating to key central spaces with integrated wifi, charging and information points.



TL: Sensitive and informative design, Brecon Beacons  
 TM: Smart bench with charging, data collection and wifi hot spot  
 B and TR: Benches painted by the local community

### CWP2 Waste and Recycle Bins

Waste bins should also be sourced and fabricated locally. They should be made of natural materials where possible, and should aesthetically fit the local character of the area.

The bins should be secure to prevent theft and should have small openings to prevent people from using them to put their household waste in. Recycling bins should be implemented where possible without proposing bulky and invasive bins.



T: Modern waste bins  
 B: Underground recycling bins



## CWP3 Planting

In order to enhance the visual experience for both residents and visitors, a planting strategy should be implemented across all towns. Planting in the towns and villages could be landscaped using locally sourced stone to create a natural and local character. This character would also reference the topographical landscape of County Cavan. Planters could also be sourced and made locally using timber. They could also include built in planting elements, which could feature a diverse range of seasonal plants that can be enjoyed all year round.

Trees should be added throughout the town/village centres as they provide innumerable benefits to both the environment and residents. A good diversity of tree species should be used in order to create lush vegetation with a healthy flora environment. The introduction of tree surrounds double up as seating, and can be an easy way to create attractive landscaping to the urban environment. Permeable paving can also be used to allow the trees to capture run-off through the design of SUDS.



TL: Trees and seating create event and interaction spaces, Tullamore  
TR: Property owners encouraged to use hanging baskets, Cornwall  
BL: Trees along the street  
BR: Tree surrounds, also acting as seating

## CWP4 Information Signs with Wifi/Charging Point

A well conceived signage strategy featuring a combination of signs, maps and information panels is important to effectively inform both residents and visitors, and will create a legible and identifiable town centre. In addition to this basic wayfinding function, good signage will enhance the character of the town, reinforce the hierarchy of spaces and contribute to the streetscape aesthetics.

Design standards should be established and replicated across all signs to ensure they are consistent and complementary. Use materials that fit the character of the town, for example locally sourced timber, which is high in quality, durable and easy to maintain.

All towns across Cavan should feature a principal map with text indicating current location, landmarks, features, routes and other amenities. This principal map should be located on the main public square or similar high pedestrian traffic areas.

Public information panels provide users with more detailed information about their surroundings by explaining the significance of a specific feature or space. Information panels could be interactive or tactile to add interest and encourage use. The information signs could be integrated with wifi and/or charging points for mobile phones. Lighting poles, bus shelters, kiosks and benches can also be used to offer digital services and should be solar powered where possible.



TL and BR: Information Map  
TM: Information Panel at a key landmark  
TR: Information sign at a key location  
BL: Interactive Information Panel

## CWP5 Paving

Footpaths are a fundamental and necessary investment for all towns across the county. Often the main streets support high levels of vehicular traffic, and therefore pedestrian access and safety should be a priority. Well designed and maintained pavements encourage walking by making it safer and more attractive, but also support socialising and generate active streetscapes. Pavements should be provided on all urban streets, be accessible to all users and be uncluttered of unnecessary furniture. Pavement surfaces and kerbs should make use of locally sourced natural stone where possible.

Good quality footpaths should feature in the following zones:

- Buffer Zone (A) - should be of appropriate scale and delineated by vertical or horizontal separation - trees, kerb extension etc. - from traffic to foster a sense of safety for pedestrians.
- Street Furniture Zone (B) - sits adjacent to the buffer zone and is where street furniture and amenities should be located and aligned.
- Clear Path (C) - is the primary, dedicated and accessible pathway that runs parallel to the street. It should be at least 1.8-2.4 m wide to ensure that two people using wheelchairs can pass each other. It must be free of fixed objects and deformities that would make it inaccessible.
- Frontage Zone (D) - is at the edge between the clear path and buildings and should focus on how to make both attractive.



L: Pavement of the main street of a small town, with a landscaped buffer zone  
R: Location and width of footpath zones as described above.

## Standard Plus Upgrades €€

### CWP6 Approach Signage

The various approaches to towns are critical to creating a strong and welcoming sense of arrival. Furthermore, as all towns and villages within County Cavan are located in rural areas with scenic views of the countryside, the approaches are sensitive spaces that can either support or be detrimental to the integration of the town into its surroundings. These approaches also signify a threshold, whereby the streets become less car oriented, more pedestrian and cycle focused in the town centre.

Bespoke signage should be introduced at the approach to the county itself and to each town and village. Signs should illustrate the location within the county, and could provide additional information such as population and an interesting unique fact. Towns should encourage the design of colourful planting and landscaping to the surrounds of the new signs to further enhance the arrival experience. An effort should be made to limit billboards.

### CWP7 Murals and Public Art

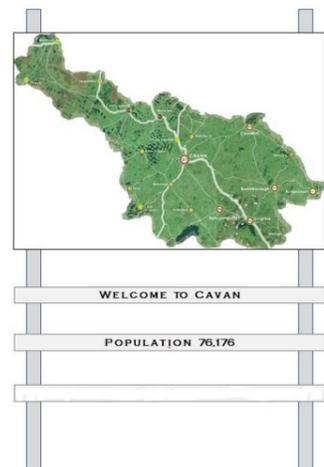
Public art is the most effective way to promote a town or village's individual character. Tourism will be encouraged furthermore through the marketing of local culture and art through social media platforms and the internet.

Various types of public art should be considered as part of an overarching strategy for each town and village. Ideas include; creative structures and pavilions, sculptures and street art, which should be designed for key public spaces.

There is existing public art in the form of street art and mural paintings across many of the towns and villages including Ballinagh, Swanlinbar and Kilnaleck.

### CWP8 Electric Vehicle Charging Point

To encourage behavioural changes towards using more sustainable transport solutions, additional electric car charging stations should be provided across the county. These should be located at convenient and central locations to strengthen the benefits of having an electric car. Stations could be incorporated into lighting poles to avoid cluttering the streetscape with additional items.



TL: Proposed design of approach signage for County Cavan towns  
TR and B: Welcome sign enhanced with colourful planting

T and BL: Example of murals referencing the local heritage of the town and created by the local community  
BR: Existing street art in Ballinagh

E-car charging station



## CWP9 Walking Routes

Each town should have a variety of walking trails in order to encourage residents and visitors to explore the built, natural and tourism assets as part of well signed routes. Trails could also include information panels at specific points of interest along the way.



Variety of sign design along countryside walks

## Premium Upgrades €€€

### CWP10 Façade Painting

Well maintained and aesthetically pleasant street façades account for creating a welcoming and vibrant atmosphere in towns, and can also add to the character of the streetscape. This can be achieved through the implementation of a façade painting scheme, improvements to shopfronts and building frontages, or the commissioning of artwork murals, lighting schemes etc. Special treatment should be given to historic buildings that provide a special architectural, cultural or heritage value to the townscape. Landmark buildings that strengthen the identity of a town should also be well maintained and presented within the streetscape. Derelict sites should also be addressed, as they are often key spaces which could add to the character and experience of a town. Such schemes can be phased, by prioritising proposals at key locations, at entrances to town, at key nodes, and at areas around public spaces. Acting as a catalyst for future improvements, the upgrading of key sites and buildings will create maximum impact and encourage incremental changes across other parts of town.



Recent painting scheme in Mullagh

# TOWN SPECIFIC PROPOSALS



*This section outlines some possible proposals that will be specific to the towns across County Cavan. As within the County Wide section, proposals have been categorised into 'Standard', 'Standard Plus' and 'Premium' upgrades.*

N.B: these proposals hold no priority rating as they are location specific. Priority ratings are summarise on page 32.

## Standard Plus Upgrades €€

### SP1 Street Redesign

Given that many of the 20 towns and villages are located along regional and local roads, through-traffic and parking are major issues experienced throughout County Cavan. These towns suffer from huge volumes of cars and industrial sized vehicles traveling along the main street. This makes for an unfriendly and dangerous pedestrian and cycle environment, that is often worsened by a lack of crossing points, narrow and damaged pavements.

Key street sections should be redesigned to create 'complete streets' that are safe and to be enjoyed by all users. Proposals could include new crossing points and refuge islands, cycle paths and associated facilities, high quality intersection surface treatment, contemporary lighting and street furniture that reflects the character of the area, shared surfaces where appropriate, traffic calming features and parking control measures. Road surfaces should be renewed when necessary to make streets both safer and more aesthetically pleasant. In particular, the use of different materials could reduce the reliance on road markings.

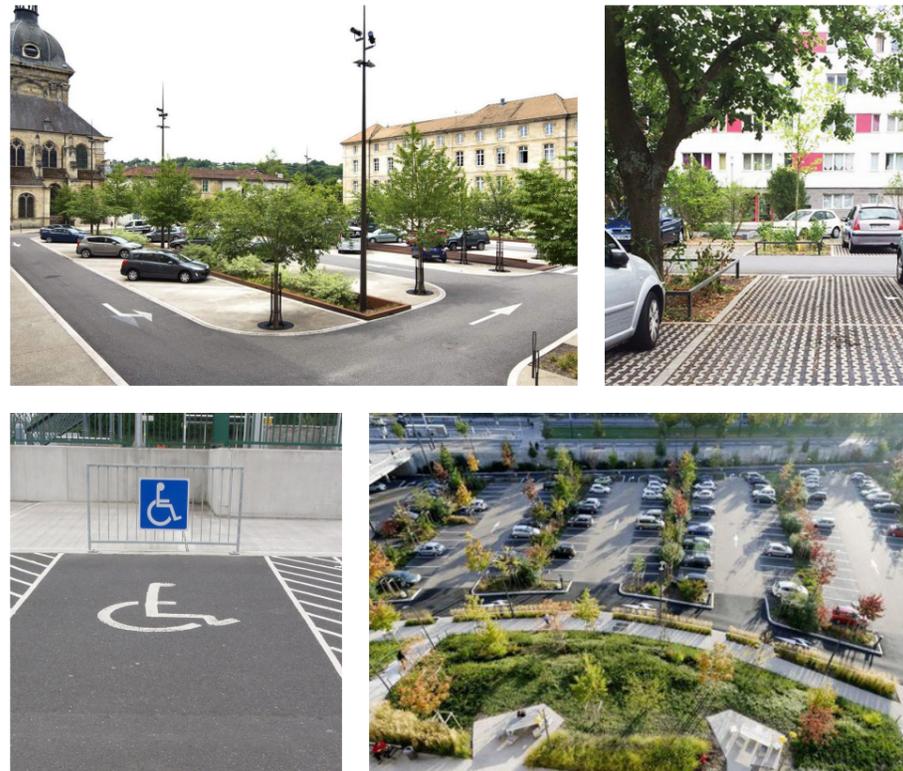


TL: Use of differentiated paving to strengthen the visibility of the crossing  
 TM: Cycle physically separated from traffic on the main street  
 BL: Shared surface  
 R: Example of context sensitive lighting solution

### SP2 Car Parking

Generally there is a good provision of parking across most towns and villages in Cavan. However many car parks and on-street parking could benefit from a redesign and/or realignment, enhanced with the introduction of landscaping, lighting and furniture.

Designated parking spaces for car users with disabilities should also be provided in every town and village across the County. These should be located next to key amenities with dropped kerbs to allow easy wheelchair access. Poorly designed disabled parking should be avoided: bays should not be fitted into leftover space but should instead be purposely designed from the start as part of a holistic strategy.



TL: Successful town centre car parking integrated with a landscaping scheme  
 TR: The use of multiple surface materials to add texture and visual interest.  
 BL: Disabled parking bay and sign, Ireland  
 BR: Efficient car park layout with clear pedestrian routes and furniture.

## Premium Upgrades €€€

### SP3 Public Space

Improvements to existing the creation of new public spaces can activate and bring key amenities to previously lifeless towns. Plazas, squares and urban parks should be transformed into multi-use destinations, supporting a variety of civic and community uses including markets, events, seasonal programming etc. Public spaces are also spaces to rest, meet, interact and play, and should therefore incorporate seating, informal play items, canopies, landscaping and water features. The creation of new public spaces in the existing urban fabric can take advantage of building setbacks or wide roads. Community involvement in the co-creation of public spaces should be encouraged, as a way to foster a community's sense of pride and shared ownership of the town.

Public spaces could integrate flexible pavilions, which could trigger various uses and activities including pop up food stalls, amphitheatres for mini-concerts, performances, meetings, spaces to host yoga, cooking or meditation courses, offer of local services etc. Pavilions could also be made bookable by the local community in order to organise and host their own events. The design of pop up and transportable structures would also enable usage across multiple locations.



TL: Temporary activation of the public space  
 TR: Pavilion dedicated to the discovery of urban gardening in Aarhus, Denmark  
 B: Leyteire urban garden



## SP4 Pedestrianisation

In the larger towns of the county, such as Cavan Town or Bailieborough, the pedestrianisation of some streets could be explored. Pedestrianisation can activate streets for new uses, foster interaction and encourage pedestrian movement. Overall, it makes the street more active, safer and healthier. It can also boost the local economy by generating higher footfall levels in retail areas.

In order for the concept of a shared or pedestrianised street to be well received locally, the proposal could be phased over time through small incremental measures. This could begin with pavement extensions, the creation of a shared street, the reduction of carriageways to single lane, the licensing of outdoor seating for cafés and pubs. Similarly, a short section of the road can be re-designed with space for a cycle track, large planters, trees, seating spaces and terraces. The community can also be encouraged to reinvent the public realm through the flexible and temporary programming of streets, such as events, street parties, markets, play streets, open streets, pedestrianisation one day a week etc.

These proposals will demonstrate the diverse ways in which a street may be utilised and may lead over time to more permanent transformations of the right-of-way.



T: A Parklet event - temporary pavement extension for amenity on parking spaces - and temporary street pedestrianisation, Hammersmith, London  
B: Pedestrian Street in Boulder

## SP5 Outdoor Gym and Playground

Playgrounds and outdoor gyms can inspire people to engage in healthy, active and outdoor lifestyles. They also serve as spaces to meet and socialise. To ensure high levels of use, they should be located near residential areas and be easily accessible by both pedestrian and cycle routes.

Playgrounds should be specifically designed for the space and context they sit in, and also make use of the available natural materials and planting. They should feature disabled friendly items and sensory rich equipment, encourage both ordered and informal play activities and support an assortment of games to appeal to different user groups. Such playgrounds should foster a sense of freedom, inspire creativity and boost the physical abilities of children.

Outdoor gyms provide public accessible places to train alone or in groups with numerous structures. Each gym should have its own character with an attractive design solution. The design should be versatile to allow users to develop their own exercises and for people of all fitness abilities to use and enjoy. In more rural areas, fitness trails could be a more appropriate solution.



T: Playgrounds in Oberhausen, Germany and New-York, USA  
B: Outdoor gym in Brisbane and trim trail in Tom Ruana Park, Mayo, Ireland



## SP6 River and Lakeside Amenity Space

Those towns and villages located near a river or a lake should aim to create amenity areas by the water for leisure, sport and recreation. These would positively contribute towards quality of life by providing an opportunity for all residents and visitors to access good quality open space facilities year round.

The range of activities offered could include: horse riding, cycling, picnicking, competitions, festivals, bird watching, nature trails, photography, orienteering, climbing, camping, swimming, boating, canoeing etc. Light structures such as a shelter or pavilion can facilitate the provision of a food and beverage offer and could facilitate scheduling events such as concerts and competitions. Legible pedestrian links from the amenity space to the town centre should be developed in parallel.

The promotion of the amenity value of rivers and lakes should be coupled with a strong focus on ecology by ensuring that developments do not disproportionately impact on the landscape and natural areas. The appropriate location, siting and design of proposed spaces will ensure that the natural resources which form the basis for recreation are protected and effectively managed.



T: Amenity space for walking, resting, fishing and sport in Lünen, Germany and Annecy, France  
B: River dedicated to swimming in Rostock, Germany

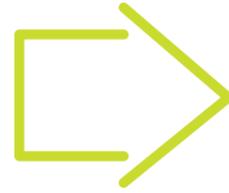






**SECTION B - ARVA PROPOSALS**

# PROPOSAL MAPS



*This section outlines proposals recommended for Arva.*

\* Please note:  
 ASP - Arva Specific Proposal  
 CWP - County Wide Proposal



- ASP1 (SP6) Promote Lakeside Setting
- CWP6 Approach Signage
- ASP6 (SP5) Refurbish the Swimming Pool
- CWP4 Signage - Improve Wayfinding
- ASP5 (SP1) Improve Junction
- ASP3 (SP2) Parking Realignment
- ASP4 (SP1) Shared Surface
- ASP7 (SP3) Reactivate Fair Green
- ASP2 (SP2) Improve car park layout  
 CW8 Electric Vehicle Charging Point

N.B  
 CW1 Public Seating and CW2 Waste and Recycling Bins are to be located along key routes and at public spaces within the Town Core Area.  
 Proposals relating to traffic, transport and parking alterations will be subject to a traffic audit and a detailed engineering design exercise.



ASP10 Sites for Redevelopment

CWP5 Paving - Redesign Pavements

CWP3 Planting

CWP10 Façade Painting



CWP7 Murals and Public Art

ASP8 (SP3) Reactivate Market Square

CWP4 Information Signs with Wifi/Charging Point

ASP9 Screening to Industrial Site

Water Body  
 Recreation Space  
 Open Space  
 Town Core Area  
 Key Building

## County Wide Proposals



### CWP1 Public Seating



At present, Arva features one bench located on Market Square, with little provision of public seating elsewhere in town. This can discourage people from walking and using public amenities such as the play area. In keeping with the county wide proposals, additional provision of public seating in Arva would encourage pedestrian use and create a more active centre.

As illustrated opposite, the bench design should be durable, and resistant to long term weathering. The seating should be securely fixed to the paving, and be made of local and traditional materials if possible. Benches should be minimal in design, and allow for multiple views by the user by not having a structural back. New seating should be introduced as a priority along main roads and at key open spaces within the Town Core Area as shown on the proposals map.



Arva - existing: a lack of provision of public seating.



Proposed: above: durable public benches to be specified in multiple locations. Below: curved seating to be implemented in parks and open spaces.



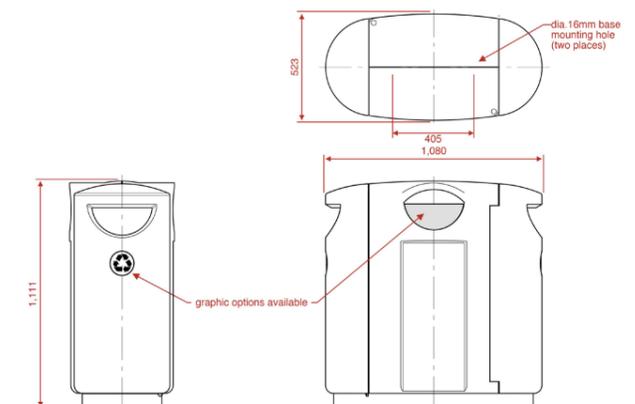
### CWP2 Waste and Recycle Bins



In conjunction with the county wide proposals discussed previously in this report, new combined recycling and waste bins will be positioned within Arva and across other towns in Cavan. At present, very few bins are available on key open spaces and along main routes in Arva. New bins should be introduced as a priority within the Town Core Area as shown on the proposals map. Designed with small openings, this will discourage misuse of the bins.



Arva - existing: the under provision of waste bins in town is partly responsible for a littered public realm.



Proposed: Cast Ductile Iron litter bin with 3 compartments; litter and recycling.

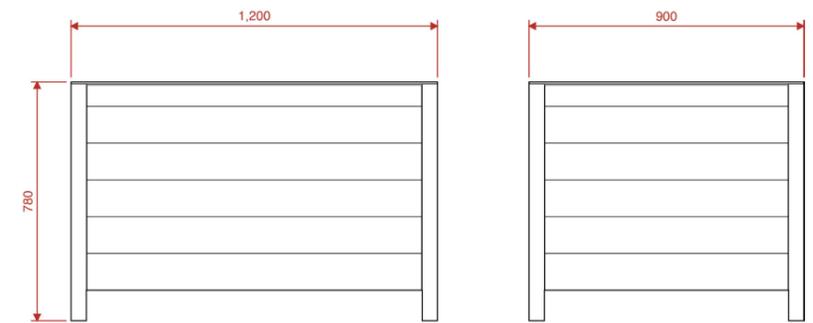
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**CWP3 Planting**



Introduce planting in the form of trees, planters and hanging baskets. This would help enliven the public realm, create a welcoming atmosphere to Arva and enhance the picturesque character of the town. Native, diverse and naturally hardy plant species could be used to enhance biodiversity as well as to reduce maintenance requirements. Trees and planting should be located as per indicated in the proposals map. In particular, areas where the pavement is proposed to be widened are ideal locations for new planting.



Arva - existing: the provision of planting by private owners on their buildings enliven the public realm. This should be replicated elsewhere in town.



Proposed: durable wooden planters

€ ●  
**CWP4 Information Signs with Wifi/Charging Point**



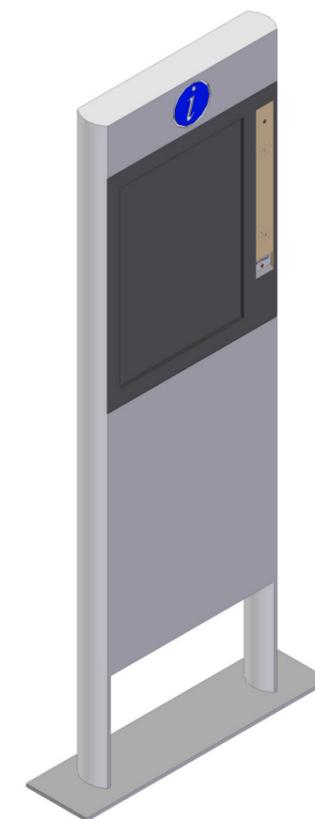
As per the county wide guidance, run down or missing signage within Arva should be replaced with newly installed information signs for all users; pedestrians, cyclists and vehicle drivers.

The format, layout, colours, fonts and over all design should be in conjunction with signage found in all other towns within County Cavan. This should also include upgraded information panels which are clearly legible and provide information on the local area and events.

Specifically to Arva, introduce signage throughout town the better highlight the lake amenities, fishing lakes and the three provinces meeting point.



Arva - existing: information signs.



Proposed: Interactive information panel

€ ●  
**CWP5 Paving**

The public realm in Arva is dominated by narrow and uneven pavements which are often littered with chewing-gums and cluttered with damaged bollards or unnecessary furniture.

Unclutter and improve pavements to create a pedestrian friendly town. Pavements could be widened as part of the shared surface area and could accommodate planting and functional street furniture. Elsewhere in town, explore the use of local materials to uplift paving and create wider zones for planting or space for retailers.

In a similar fashion, enhance the aesthetics of the town by considering alternatives to unsightly overhead cables and improvements to public lighting.



Arva - existing: uneven and narrow paving littered with chewing-gum and cluttered with retail signs and furniture.



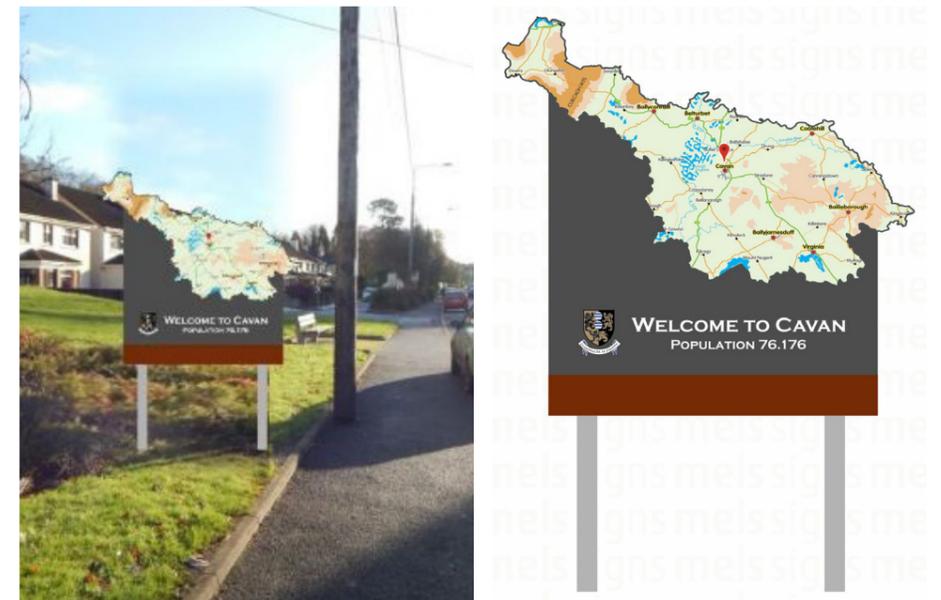
Proposed: use of local materials to create aesthetically pleasant and well designed pathways. Consider application of cobbles/textured grain to edges and thresholds.

€ ● ●  
**CWP6 Approach Signage**

Enhance both the R198 and R203 approach roads to town by introducing more visible welcome signage and further traffic calming features. Consider the creation of a footpath connecting to the proposed urban walking routes and existing trails. On the southern R198 approach road, complement these measures by introducing colourful planting.



Arva - existing: a pleasant provision of planting on the northern approach to town but a lack of visible and clear approach sign.



Proposed: use of county wide signage with local information and fact. (N.B information will be town specific in detailed design).



### CWP7 Murals and Public Art



Encourage the commissioning of art murals by local artists and schools as a means to decorate blank building walls. Artworks should make reference to the local folklore and identity of Arva, for example the nearby lake or three provinces meeting point. This would add colour and vibrancy to the townscape.



Arva - existing: blank wall lacking art installation.



Proposed: reinstate key buildings and façades with murals related to the town's features and heritage. (Ledwidge mural).



### CWP8 Electric Vehicle Charging Point



With increasing numbers of electrical vehicles being used, towns should ensure that there is sufficient provision of electrical charging points. These should be located with close proximity to the town's retail street or close to key attractions. As per the proposals map, additional charging points should be located within the redesigned car park.



Arva - existing: no provision of e-car space in the town centre.



Proposed: provide additional e-car charging points with designated parking spaces.



## CWP9 Walking Routes



Consider the creation of three walking routes of different lengths - 0.5 km, 1.7 km and 3 km. These would take users around the town centre, allowing visitors to discover the key landmarks, views and natural assets of Arva. These walks should feature interpretative and interactive signage materials. Themed walks relating to ecology and wildlife could also be organised on these newly created walks to complement the existing offer on other trails.

In a similar manner, preserve and enhance trails from the town to Lough Garty, its associated facilities, the scenic countryside and Bruse Hill.



Arva - existing: ecology themed walk on Brankill Walk.



Proposed: markers along the walking routes



Proposed: Arva urban walking routes



## CWP10 Façade Painting

Encourage the redecoration of exhausted façades throughout town and protect original shopfronts by promoting painting schemes and heritage grants.



Arva - existing: key façade in need of refreshment.



Proposed: encourage property owners to paint their façades with a set colour palette to create a bright and uplifted town centre.

## Arva Specific Proposals (ASP)



### ASP1 Promote Lakeside Setting



Arva has recently received funding to create a jetty on Lough Garty. This represents an interesting opportunity to further develop the leisure and recreation potential of the lake. Potential new activities could include a swimming area, walking trails, cycle routes and exercise trail. The introduction of such amenities should be carried together with the protection of the natural setting of the lake and conservation for wildlife and biodiversity.



Arva - existing: picturesque lake setting lacking amenities for residents and visitors.



Proposed: introduction of sport and recreation opportunities that do not detract from the natural setting of the lake.



### ASP2 Improve Car Park Layout



Arva benefits from a large car park located in close proximity of the town centre. This is an asset that is currently under used. Introduce a formally delineated parking layout to improve safety, make optimum use of the space, and partially relieve issues created by on-street parking in the town centre. Consider the introduction of soft landscaping and permeable surfacing to enhance aesthetics and improve stormwater management.



Arva - existing: large but unappealing and dysfunctional car park in close proximity of the town centre.



Proposed: improve functionality by creating delineated parking bays and enhance aesthetics and sustainability by introducing soft landscaping and permeable paving.



### ASP3 Parking Realignment



Consider the realignment of on-street parking to one-side only along Main Street, Pound Street and Broad Road through the introduction of a designated number of parking spaces. This would free up valuable public space for pedestrians and ease traffic flow. The redesign of the main car park layout would provide the same overall number of available parking spaces in town. Alternative parking locations should be explored in the longer term.



Arva - existing: car parking on both side of the street detracts from the aesthetics of the streetscape and limits pedestrian mobility.



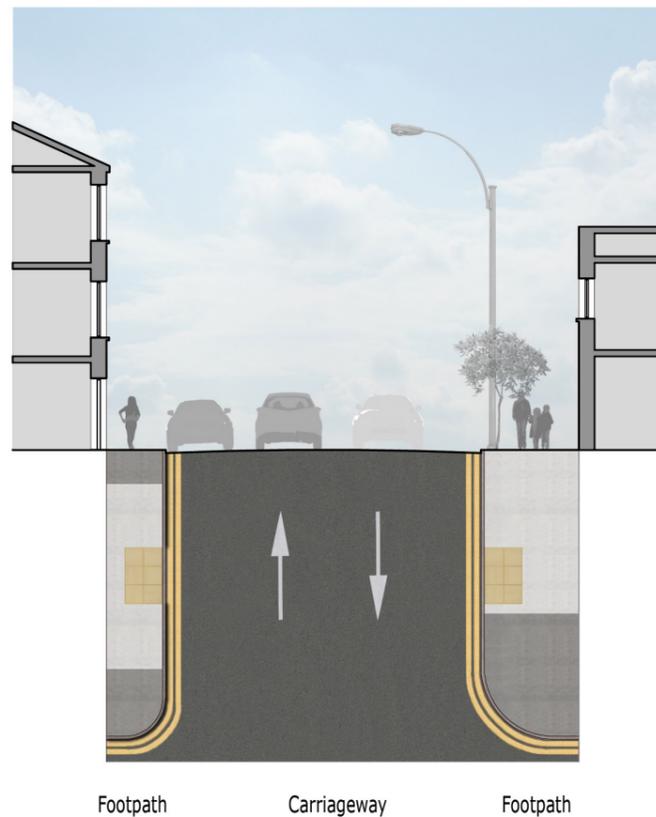
Proposed: realign car parking on one side of the street only along key routes.



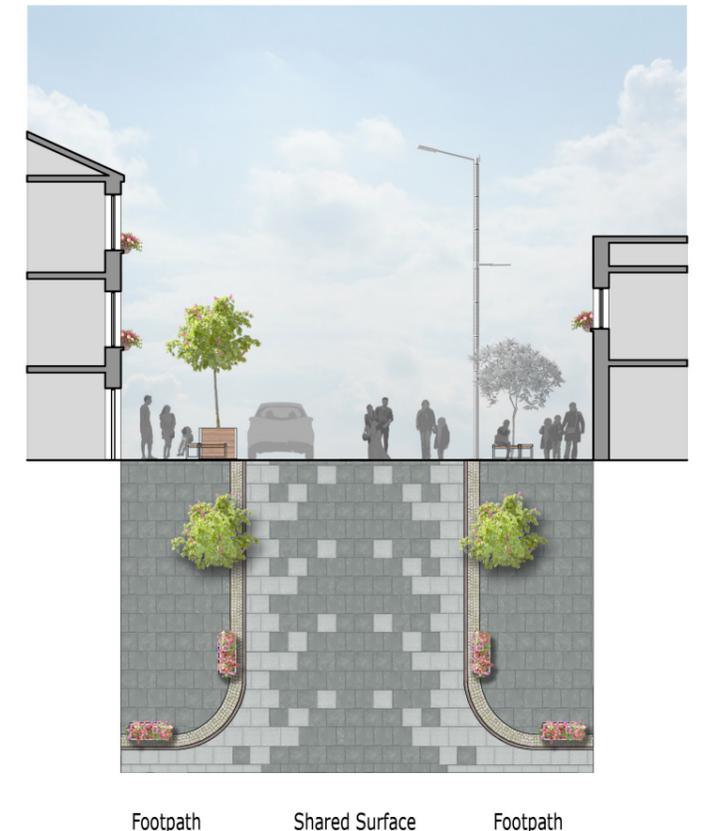
### ASP4 Shared Surface



Explore the idea to create a shared surface on Broad Road, Main Street and Pound Street, in an effort to calm traffic and activate the town centre by creating a pedestrian friendly and vibrant retail atmosphere. Features segregating different road users such as kerbs, road surface markings and traffic signs should be removed, together with the introduction of distinctive and attractive paving materials. Such measures will give greater ownership to pedestrians over their streets and reduce the dominance of vehicles in Arva.



Arva - existing: streets within the town centre are dominated by vehicles and devoid of pedestrians.



Proposed: creation of a shared street blurring the segregation between road users and allowing for a more pedestrian friendly public realm.



### ASP5 Improve Junction

Improve safety levels at the junction between Main Street and the residential development by removing on-street parking, renewing road markings and signage, and introducing soft landscaping.



Arva - existing: dangerous street junction lacking markings and signage.



Proposed: calm traffic and improve visibility by introducing soft landscape, markings and signage. This would also serve the aesthetics of the junction.



### ASP6 Refurbish the Swimming Pool

Renovate the swimming pool and associated playground to reinstate them as key community and recreation facilities within the town. They are a very valuable asset in Arva but are today in a poor condition. The entrance to the area should be improved with clear signage and landscaping to compliment the recently completed jetty project.



Arva - existing: existing underutilised swimming pool facility with potential.



Proposed: Renovate the swimming pool and adjacent playground in conjunction with the new proposed activities proposed around the lake.



### ASP7 Reactivate Fair Green

The historic Fair Green and old Flax Mill are today used for informal storage or industrial uses. Refurbish these assets with permeable soft surfacing, planting, lighting, seating and footpaths. This will contribute to reinstating these as key spaces which could support various community events. These two spaces have great potential and are key attractions to the history of the town. Signage referencing these spaces from the town centre should also be introduced.



Arva - existing: this historic Fair Green is used for storage and car parking instead of serving the social and civic life of Arva.



Proposed: reinstate the Fair Green and old Flax Mill for civic and social life.



### ASP8 Reactivate Market Square

Maximise use of recently upgraded Market Square and exploit the enhanced environment characterised by planting and landscaping.



Arva - existing: recently renovated Market Square - a potential catalyst for further improvements.



Proposed: activate the Market Square by uplifting the paving, introducing seating, planting, canopy and artworks.



### ASP9 Screening to Industrial Site



Introduce soft planting and contemporary fencing to screen the active industrial sites on Broad Road. This would enhance the aesthetics and urban character of the town centre.



Arva - existing: unsightly industrial premises in a town centre location.



Proposed: use of soft landscaping to screen the premises and enhance the streetscape.



### ASP10 Sites for Redevelopment



Encourage residential use within the town core by upgrading vacant dwellings through the Action Plan for Rural Ireland. Dormant properties could also accommodate flexible and temporary spaces, start up businesses or uses related to the angling industry.

On Main Street by the Market Square, consider the opportunity to retrofit the disused garage into a vibrant community centre, workshop, craft space or flexible office for emerging businesses. This centre, as part of the reactivation of the Market Square, could become a focal point in town.



Arva - existing: abandoned garage ideally located in a central location by the Market Square.



Proposed: refurbish the garage into a vibrant community centre serving to further activate the Market Square and the town.

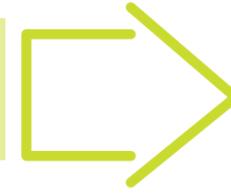






**SECTION C - SUMMARY**

# SUMMARY



*This table summarises the proposals for Arva and associated implementation timescales and costs.*

PROPOSAL		NOTES	PRIORITY RATING	COST RATING
<i>County Wide Proposals</i>				
CWP1	Public Seating		Medium Priority	Standard Upgrade
CWP2	Waste and Recycle Bins		Medium Priority	Standard Upgrade
CWP3	Planting		High Priority	Standard Upgrade
CWP4	Information Signs with Wifi/Charging Point		Medium Priority	Standard Upgrade
CWP5	Paving		High Priority	Standard Upgrade
CWP6	Approach Signage		Medium Priority	Standard Plus Upgrade
CWP7	Murals and Public Art		Low Priority	Standard Plus Upgrade
CWP8	Electric Vehicle Charging Point		Low Priority	Standard Plus Upgrade
CWP9	Walking Routes		Medium Priority	Standard Plus Upgrade
CWP10	Façade Painting		High Priority	Premium Upgrade
<i>Arva Specific Proposals</i>				
ASP1	Promote Lakeside Setting		Medium Priority	Premium Upgrade
ASP2	Improve Car Park Layout		High Priority	Standard Plus Upgrade



PROPOSAL		NOTES	PRIORITY RATING	COST RATING
ASP3	Parking Realignment		High Priority	Standard Plus Upgrade
ASP4	Shared Surface		Low Priority	Standard Plus Upgrade
ASP5	Improve Junction		Medium Priority	Standard Plus Upgrade
ASP6	Refurbish the Swimming Pool		Medium Priority	Premium Upgrade
ASP7	Reactivate Fair Green		Medium Priority	Premium Upgrade
ASP8	Reactivate Market Square		High Priority	Premium Upgrade
ASP9	Screening to Industrial Site		Medium	Standard Upgrade
ASP10	Sites for Redevelopment		High Priority	Premium Upgrade

Cost rating:

Standard Upgrade: €0 - €25,000

Standard Plus Upgrade: €25,000 - €100,000

Premium Upgrade: €100,000 +



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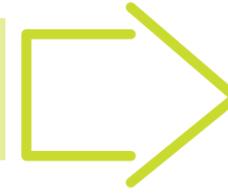
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**SECTION D - CONSULTATION FINDINGS**

# CONSULTATION FINDINGS

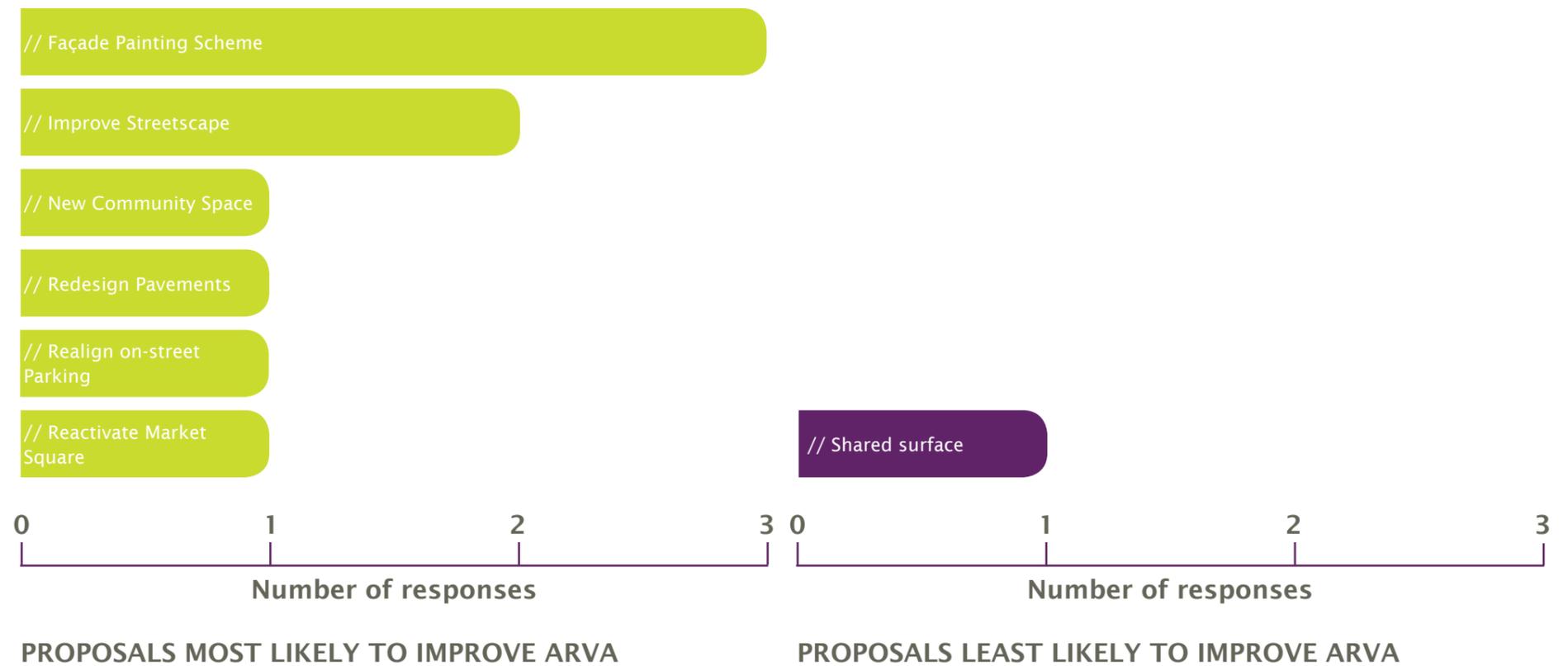


*This section presents the summary of the findings of the public consultation.*

A draft of the proposals presented in this report has been subject to a public consultation which led to the revised and final suggestions of the present report. The proposals were presented and members of the public were invited to provide feedback as to which proposal they thought would be most likely to improve Arva, and which they thought were least likely to improve the town.

The findings are illustrated opposite, with the façade painting scheme was considered to be the most effective. The shared surface was the proposal considered to be the least likely to improve the town as it was perceived as being dangerous unless pedestrianised for certain days of year.

On the following page, additional suggestions provided by the public are illustrated on the map. These suggestions will be considered and incorporated as part of any formal proposals going forward.





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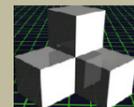


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